



USARPAC
News Release
USARPAC Public Affairs
Ft. Shafter, HI 96858-5100

FOR IMMEDIATE USE

Release # 007-07
March 27, 2007

Survey of Ordnance Reef conducted

U.S. Army, Pacific Public Affairs Office

FORT SHAFTER, Hawaii - The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), with the University of Hawaii (UH), conducted a survey of an area off Waianae, Oahu, Hawaii, locally known as Ordnance Reef. Department of Defense requested this survey to address concerns raised by the Waianae community.

NOAA and UH with advice from the State of Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources, designed the survey to meet the need for information to evaluate potential risks presented by the munitions at Ordnance Reef. The survey area included the area previously studied by the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and an additional area of concern suggested by a local community leader. During the survey, NOAA covered a 4.5 square mile area, confirmed the presence of munitions discovered by the Corps of Engineers and identified clusters of munitions not previously surveyed.

DoD's initial review of the survey's results indicates that the munitions present do not pose an immediate threat to human health or public safety. The survey provides a baseline of information on which any further assessments will be planned.

The Department of Defense will work with State and Federal offices to determine the next appropriate course of action.

NOAA conducted this survey (28 May to 8 Jun 06) to determine the boundaries of this discarded military munitions site. NOAA also collected biological, sediment and water samples and analyzed them to determine the presence or absence of munition particles.

Although the munitions at Ordnance Reef are not considered to present an immediate threat to recreational divers and boaters, the DoD cautions against touching, moving or disturbing any munitions encountered on land or in the sea. This includes avoiding contact with propellants washing ashore recently on the beaches on the leeward Oahu coast.

DoD recommends learning and following the 3Rs (Recognize, Retreat, Report) of Unexploded Ordnance Safety. Recognize when you may have encountered a munition and the danger, Retreat--do not touch move or disturb it, and move away, Report--call the local police or fire department.

To learn more about safety, visit the U.S. Army's Unexploded Ordnance Safety Education Program's Web site, www.denix.osd.mil/UXOSafety.

Community input remains vital to the success of this process. The U.S. Army, Pacific will continue to act as a conduit for information as the public's safety is our number one concern," said Lt. Col. John Williams, U.S. Army, Pacific public affairs officer.

"As always, we remain vigilant to any immediate safety risk and will take prompt measures to ensure continued public safety," said Williams.

For more information, contact U.S. Army Public Affairs Office at (808) 438 – 9375.